

Document Log Item

Addressing	
From	To
Fritts Golden <FGolden@aspeneg.com>	Michele Dermer/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
CC	BCC
"Damonica.Pierson@Shell.com" <Damonica.Pierson@Shell.com>	
Description Form Used: Memo	
Subject	Date/Time
Follow up agency coordination - CDFG, SHPO and USFWS	ö" # Dw%#
# of Attachments	Total Bytes
0	20,827
NPM	Contributor
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Comments	

Body

Document Body

Michele,

The following information details what has transpired by way of coordination. (For brevity, I have omitted greetings/salutations/footers from the email text)

CDFG_____

I sent biology report to CDFG and replied to some questions. Per an email reply from Brenda Blinn on 5/20/2010 3:35 PM (with you as a cc), they see no problems (but, of course, reserve their right to provide comments on the County CEQA document).

CONTACT:

Brenda Blinn - Environmental Scientist

California Department of Fish and Game -Bay Delta Region Habitat Conservation Planning P.O.
Box 47 Yountville, California 94599

V: 707 944-5541

C: 707-227-6956

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bblinn@dfg.ca.gov (<mailto:bblinn@dfg.ca.gov>)

The email message string with CDFG:

GOLDEN:

Attached is a biological resources report prepared by WRA for a project site in Solano County.

Briefly, the project requires construction of a drill pad and installation of two wells in the Montezuma Hills area of southern Solano County. The site and vicinity have been evaluated with regard to potential impacts on biological resources and it has been determined that no impacts to these resources are expected.

The wells will be used to injection a small quantity of CO2 into an underground formation approximately 2 miles below the ground surface.

This is a research project to investigate the formation and the behavior of CO2 in the formation. USEPA is responsible for permitting the injection and will evaluate information from the well before and after injection. The only surface disturbance from the project will be construction of a drill pad and penetration of the ground with two wells. The site is used for dry land farming (wheat and grazing) and is in a wind energy farm. The site is plowed every year or two by the farmer. The site is relatively flat and on a ridge and is not near any structures or water bodies.

If, after reviewing the report you have any questions, please contact me by return email or phone fgolden@aspeneg.com<<mailto:fgolden@aspeneg.com>> (415) 955-4775 ext 208. or Michele Dermer at USEPA dermer.michele@epa.gov<<mailto:dermer.michele@epa.gov>> (415)

972-3417

After reviewing the attached document, please email Michele and myself indicating that you have received and reviewed the report and concur in the conclusion that there is no impact anticipated to biological resources. This will be our confirmation that we have coordinated with your agency with regard to the project.

We are also coordinating with Ryan Olah at USFWS.

BLINN

I have reviewed the Biological Assessment for the subject project. Currently, the project description is not detailed enough for DFG to assess potential impacts. We would need to have a detailed description of all construction-related activities, related infrastructure, timeframe, etc. to provide a final determination. My determination and any recommendations would also be subject to supervisory review and approval. At what stage of the NEPA/CEQA process is this project? DFG could more thoroughly review the potential impacts of the proposed project during the public comment period.

A preliminary comment I have is the fact that, according to the B.A., a botanical survey was conducted within the proposed project area on December 18, 2008. Botanical surveys were not floristic in nature, and should be conducted throughout the blooming period for plant species potentially occurring within the proposed project site. DFG-recommended survey and monitoring protocols and guidelines are available at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/Protocols_for_Surveying_and_Evaluating_Impacts.pdf.

GOLDEN

Thank you for your quick reply. The project is undergoing CEQA review by Solano County before it can issue a conditional use permit. We expect the Initial Study to be issued by the county in about a month.

Attached is the Initial Study that was provided to the county as part of the conditional use permit application. The project description in the Initial Study is quite complete, and I hope provides you the information you need.

The site has been in dry land agricultural use for many generations.

The site has no trees or shrubs. It is regularly disked by the farmer and sown in dry land grain. After reaping the crop, sheep and cattle

are released on the land to graze. These pattern of use has occurred

for decades. For these reasons and based on the site inspection, no seasonal plant surveys were indicated.

The attached Map Air images file shows the location of the site. The last two figures in the file are Google images. One shows the site and the farming pattern within which it is situated. The vertical elements on the Google image are tall windmills situated on the property. The last

Google image show a larger area around the project site. To the west of the site can be seen a dark area that has been newly disked.

The rest of the land has been newly harvested. These images are part of a much larger wind generation facility that is co-located with the farm.

The roads on the property are compacted gravel.

Please let me know if there is additional information you may require. Jeff Dreier, at WRA, prepared the biological report that I provided to you earlier. He is on vacation until June 1, but I can help with any information you may require.

BLINN:

Based on the information provided, there appears to be a low likelihood for sensitive plant and wildlife species to occur within the project area. However, DFG may have further comments on the proposed project, and provide recommendations on avoiding or reducing any potential impacts of the project on natural resources during the CEQA review process.

SHPO

SHPO has not responded beyond a message saying they coordinate only with Federal agencies.

On 5/20 I sent information to them, received a reply, and replied back. I forwarded the string of email messages to you on 5/20 about 3:22 PM. If you send an email or call, remind Bill of the emails and that a report was provided, and inquire if they have any concerns.

CONTACT:

William E. Soule
Associate State Archeologist
Office of Historic Preservation

Phone: 916-654-4614
Fax: 916-653-9824
email: wsoule@parks.ca.gov

The message string with SHPO:

GOLDEN

Attached is a cultural resources report prepared by WSA for a project site in Solano County.

Briefly, the project requires construction of a drill pad and installation of two wells in the Montezuma Hills area of southern Solano County. The site and vicinity have been evaluated with regard to potential impacts on cultural resources and it has been determined that no impacts to cultural resources are expected.

The wells will be used to injection of a small quantity of CO2 into an underground formation approximately 2 miles below the ground surface. This is a research project to investigate the formation and the behavior of CO2 in the formation. USEPA is responsible for permitting the injection and will evaluate information from the well before and after injection. The only surface disturbance from the project will be construction of a drill pad and penetration of the ground with two wells. The site is used for dry land farming (wheat and grazing) and is in a wind energy farm. The site is plowed every year or two by the farmer. The site is relatively flat and on a ridge and is not near any structures or water bodies.

If, after reviewing the report you have any questions, please contact me by return email or phone fgolden@aspeneg.com (415) 955-4775 ext 208. or Michele Dermer at USEPA dermer.michele@epa.gov (415) 972-3417

After reviewing the attached document, please email Michele and myself and Michele indicating that you have received and reviewed the report and concur in the conclusion that there is no impact anticipated to cultural resources. This will be our confirmation that we have coordinated with your agency with regard to the project.

Soule

The SHPO consults only with federal agencies regarding compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. After reviewing the initial several pages of your attachment, I cannot identify any federal involvement (lands, funding, or regulatory). If this is a CEQA action, please contact the lead CEQA agency. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

USFWS

I sent the bio report and the Initial Study we prepared for the County to USFWS, but have heard nothing since I provided information. The last message to them was 5/20, 9:46 AM; you were cc on the string of emails. USFWS is always busy, so you will need to follow up with Ryan – reminding him of the information provided, etc.

CONTACT:

Ryan Olah

Coast Bay Branch Chief

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office

2800 Cottage Way

Sacramento, CA 95825

(916) 414-6623

Message string with USFWS:

GOLDEN

Susan

I am working on a project in the Montezuma Hills area of Solano County. It is about 2 miles north of the Sacramento River and 2 miles east of Suisun Marsh in upland agricultural land. It sits in the midst of an existing wind electric generation facility. I would like to discuss the project with you briefly to ensure that we have adequately coordinated with Fish and Wildlife.

A site survey and records search have been done by WRA. No species of concern were found and no suitable habitat. The project involves about 8 acres of earthwork (pad building) and the drilling of two wells.

Solano County is the local lead agency for environmental review. USEPA is reviewing the project for a permit to construct the wells and inject a small volume of CO2 2 miles underground. This is part of a DOE-funded investigation of Carbon Capture and Storage.

Please telephone me when you can so that I may review the project in more detail.

MOORE

I have asked Cay Goude, our Assistant Field Supervisor, to give yo a call.

She oversees projects in Solano County.

Susan Moore

Field Supervisor

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office

Phone: (916) 414-6700

Fax: (916) 414-6714

OLAH

can you send us any information you have on your proposed project? Thanks.

GOLDEN

This is a CEQA Initial study we provided to Solano County with a Use Permit application. I will send the Biology report in a separate email following this one. This is similar to a project for which an MND was prepared in Thornton, on DWR property at Grizzly Slough. I believe you reviewed that MND. But, this project is remote from water and in the middle of dry agriculture (wheat, post-reaping grazing).

OLAH

This project should probably undergo a Section 7 consultation with the Service. EPA would be the federal agency that would consult with the Service. Let me know if you have additional questions.

GOLDEN

Given site conditions and the nature of the project, how 'formal' will a section 7 consultation need to be? Would it be sufficient for EPA to send you an email requesting a consultation, discuss the project on the telephone, and then send an email documenting the results of the discussion? I know that everyone (USFWS and EPA) is very busy and am

looking for the best way to facilitate this. For a similar WESTCARB

project in Arizona, the USFWS office for that region used this approach.

Also, how long would the process take?

OLAH

i looks like we may be able to do informal consultation, but we would still need to look at all of the information. Informal consultation usually is not that long of a process, and can usually be completed within 30 days.

GOLDEN

I assume the information provided earlier (the CEQA initial study and the Biology report) will be sufficient and is the information to which you refer. If there is anything else you need, please let us know. The material that will provide you the most complete information is the Project Description and the Biology sections of the initial study, and the separate Biology report.

That is all of the communications with CDFG, SHPO and USFWS.

B.Fritts Golden, AICP

Aspen Environmental Group

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